

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Report by Chief Executive**

**Community Participation Committee: 22 August 2007**

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**Subject: Draft Joint Voluntary Policy/Standards for Community Engagement Training Event**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** This report informs the Committee about the training event above and demonstrates the work being done to embed good practice in involving the community and working with volunteers.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1** As reported to the November meeting of the CPC, a Joint Voluntary Policy is being developed as a standard for all community planning partners to work to.
- 2.2** At the same time, work has been ongoing to support good practice in working with communities, through awareness raising and training on the National Standards for Community Engagement. Local guidance has been developed to help implement this in the form of West Dunbartonshire Guidance for Involving the Community, accompanied by training sessions for employees.
- 2.3** The Communities Thematic Group of the WD Community Planning Partnership agreed that it would be useful to access a free training and development day delivered through the Scottish Community Development Centre to explore links between the Draft Joint Voluntary Policy and the Standards for Community Engagement.
- 2.4** The consultation period on the Draft Joint Voluntary Policy finished at the end of June and the finalised policy, incorporating feedback from the consultation, will be presented to community planning partners for adoption and launch later this year.
- 2.5** Two sets of guidance are in development to support the implementation of the Draft Joint Voluntary Policy, one to support working with voluntary groups, the other to support working with individual volunteers.

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** This training and development day was aimed at staff in the public and voluntary sectors who work with volunteers.

**3.2** The day provided useful feedback on the Draft Voluntary Policy and Standards for Community Engagement. The feedback will be reported to the Communities Thematic Group and Community Learning & Development Partnership Guidance Group and will inform future training and development in relation to these areas.

**3.3** The full report on the training and development day is available on request from the Policy Officer, Community & Consultation, tel. 01389 737177.

#### **4. Personnel Issues**

**4.1** There are no personnel issues.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** There are no financial implications.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** There are no risks to note in relation to the content of this report.

#### **7. Conclusions**

**7.1** The development and implementation of a Joint Voluntary Policy and associated guidance will strengthen good practice in working with the voluntary sector and volunteers. Links with the Standards for Community Engagement will contribute to good practice.

#### **8. Recommendations**

**8.1** The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

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**David McMillan**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Date: 2 August 2007**

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**Person to Contact:** Anne Clegg, Policy Unit, West Dunbartonshire Council, tel. 01389 737177

**Background Papers:** Policy for Volunteering, Voluntary Sector Policy

Community Participation Committee: Wednesday  
21 June, 2006  
Draft Joint Voluntary Policy, Community  
Participation Committee: Wednesday 15  
November, 2006

**Wards Affected:** All